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Letter dated 22 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a memorandum of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued on 21 November 2016 with regard to the viewpoint of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the strengthening of its nuclear forces (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 22 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Memorandum of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Democratic People's Republic of Korea strengthening its nuclear forces is a righteous choice to defend itself from the extreme moves of the United States to stifle it

Five years have gone by since the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), after having lost its great leader, engaged itself in an all-out confrontation with the United States (US) imperialists to cope with their ever-worsening hostile moves and increasing nuclear threat against it.

The people of the DPRK have turned out in the struggle to implement the behest of the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il, overcoming the pain and sorrow of having lost him. The US has employed all kinds of means and methods in vicious moves to check the advance of the DPRK and tried to seize the opportunity to stifle it.

However, the anachronistic hostile policy and nuclear threat that the US have enforced with unprecedented recklessness against the DPRK have only provoked its just and righteous countermeasure for self-defence and have ended up in total and complete failure.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK hereby issues this memorandum to disclose the criminal acts of the US, which has pushed the DPRK towards the strengthening of its nuclear forces by making ceaseless hostile moves against it after it suffered the greatest loss of the nation.

1. Heinous hostile manoeuvres against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea aimed at political suffocation and system collapse

Since 2012, soon after the passing away of the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il, the US began to openly pursue the objective of politically stifling the DPRK and overthrowing its system by all means.

Blatant remarks denying the DPRK Government, system and policy were made by high-level officials of the US and even Obama himself has constantly heaped malicious slander and criticism on the DPRK in his public appearances.

The gravity of the hostile manoeuvres of the US against the DPRK lies in the fact that they have grown extremely reckless and dangerous as to target the supreme leadership of our revolution.

The Obama administration dared to defame the supreme dignity of the DPRK as an extension of their malicious slander on it. This is the gravest of all sins which will never be forgiven for eternity.

This fully reveals the true nature of the policy of "strategic patience" pursued by the Obama administration, which is none other than an aggressive and heinous "strategic suffocation" policy against the DPRK.

By this time, the "human rights" racket which the US has long made against the DPRK has grown so reckless as to attempt to put their wild ambition of overthrowing the DPRK system into practice.

The US has gone so far as to breach the basic principles of international laws and ditch its dignity of a superpower by pleading with other countries to join their pressure racket against the DPRK by downgrading or severing ties with it.

The US political acts of hostility against the DPRK find graphic accounts in the following record of events:

- On 25 March 2012, Obama clamoured about the "isolation" of the DPRK while condemning its strengthening of a nuclear deterrent;
- In June 2012, the US Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues disclosed the provision of funds by the State Department to anti-DPRK media entities;
- On 16 August 2012, Obama signed the North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act;
- Between March and June 2013, the US State Department released reports entitled "International Narcotics Control Strategy Report", "DPRK Human Rights Report", "International Religious Freedom Report" and "Trafficking in Persons Report" to intensify its condemnation against the DPRK on baseless or fabricated data and allegations;
- On 17 January 2014, Obama signed the Appreciation Act for the 2014 fiscal year, which allocated a huge amount of funds for the anti-DPRK "human rights" racket;
- On 26 February 2014, US Secretary of State Kerry, in a press interview, labelled the DPRK as an "evil place" and said they should "hold it accountable";
- On 15 April 2014, the US State Department officially announced its provision of funds to anti-DPRK "human rights" groups;
- From 23 to 26 April 2014, during his visit to Japan and south Korea, Obama criticized the DPRK as the "worst violator of human rights";
- On 23 September 2014, US Secretary of State Kerry personally called a high-level meeting on North Korea human rights in New York and fanned the atmosphere of pressurizing the DPRK;
- On 18 November 2014, an anti-DPRK "human rights resolution" was coercively adopted at the meeting of the Third Committee of the General Assembly at the instigation of the US;
- On 22 December 2014, the US pressed for a meeting of the Security Council with the agenda item of the DPRK "human rights situation";
- On 22 January 2015, Obama made malicious remarks about the "collapse" of the DPRK in an interview;
- On 17 and 18 May 2015, during his visit to south Korea, US Secretary of State Kerry provoked the supreme leadership of the DPRK by talking about "reckless disregard for human rights" and "the most egregious examples";

- On 10 December 2015, the US has put the "human rights situation" of the DPRK on the agenda of the Security Council, abusing its presidency of the Council;
- On 18 February 2016, Obama signed the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016, which included psychological warfare and a "human rights" offensive against the DPRK to disintegrate it from within;
- On 6 July 2016, the US State Department released a report, pursuant to the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016, that made impudent remarks about the supreme leadership of the DPRK while maliciously condemning the country;
- On 20 September 2016, Obama labelled the DPRK as a "wasteland" in his speech at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly;
- On 12 October 2016, the US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs made vehement criticism of the supreme leadership of the DPRK;
- On 28 October 2016, during his visit to south Korea, the US Deputy Secretary of State condemned the policy of the DPRK Government as "reckless and inhumane".

The political acts of hostility committed by the US against the DPRK since its great leader passed away were indeed the most vicious, frantic and despicable of all time.

2. Intensification of the extremely dangerous military hostility and nuclear threat and blackmail

During the past five years, the US revealed its intention to deliver a pre-emptive nuclear strike against the DPRK and intensified its military threats against us at a maximum pace.

The US consistently increased the scale and intensity of the aggressive joint military drills which it conducts on annual basis, creating extreme tension on the Korean peninsula, driving the situation to the brink of nuclear war and seriously endangering peace and security in the region.

To take the example of the Key Resolve joint military exercise, one of the typical joint military drills of the US and the south Korean puppets, 2,100 US troops participated in the exercise in the year 2012, but the US has steadily increased the number of troops to 3,500 in 2013, 5,200 in 2014 and 8,600 in 2015, and, in 2016, 27,000 troops participated in the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle 2016 joint military exercises.

Beside the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises, the US conducted over 40 provocative and aggressive military drills under various names on an annual basis, including Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military exercise, Max Thunder joint air force exercise, Double Dragon joint landing exercise and multilateral RIMPAC naval exercise, joint naval strike exercise, joint special force exercise, joint live firing exercise, and so on. The total number of troops the US has committed to these exercises reached over 500,000.

Not only the scale of these war drills has increased, but also their character, purpose and contents have become more and more provocative and frantic every year.

The US, obsessed with its ambition to invade the DPRK, has been deploying various kinds of modern military equipment and assets in and around the Korean peninsula and has tried to threaten and blackmail it with nuclear weapons.

Since 2012, the US has consistently conducted various kinds of military drills against the DPRK, deploying its naval forces in and around the Korean peninsula, including the nuclear carriers *USS George Washington*, *USS Nimitz*, *USS Ronald Reagan* and *USS John C. Stennis*, the flagship of the US Navy 7th Fleet *USS Blue Ridge*, nuclear submarines *USS Ohio*, *USS San Francisco*, *USS Bremerton*, *USS Columbus*, *USS Olympia*, *USS North Carolina* and *USS Mississippi*, Aegis cruiser *USS Shiloh*, Aegis destroyers *USS Michael Murphy* and *USS Kidd*, guided missile destroyer *USS Spruance*, and so on.

In addition, the US moved B-1B, B-2 and B-52 nuclear strategic bombers from the US mainland to Guam, and they flew to south Korea several times to conduct drills for landing and dropping nuclear bombs with the purpose of getting ready for a surprise nuclear pre-emptive strike against the DPRK.

Despite severe criticism and condemnation at home and abroad, the US proceeded with the deployment of the terminal high-altitude area defence system (THAAD) to south Korea in full scale.

The US has rapidly intensified its military provocations against the DPRK since 2012, and here are some examples:

- From 27 February to 30 April 2012, the US conducted the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises. These exercises were aimed at the mourning period in our country after the passing away of the great leader and were conducted in accordance with its all-out war scenario OPLAN 5027 and OPLAN 5029 allegedly aimed at coping with "contingency" in the north.
- On 22 June 2012, the US conducted the largest ever joint live firing exercise, together with the south Korean puppet army at the south of the demilitarized zone, using the DPRK flag as a target.
- From 20 to 31 August 2012, the US conducted the Ulji Freedom Guardian exercise in accordance with its "actual war scenario" against the DPRK. The flagship of the US Navy 7th Fleet and over 30,000 troops participated in this exercise.
- From 1 March to 30 April 2013, the US conducted the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises. The nuclear carrier *USS George Washington*, a nuclear submarine and a huge amount of forces and war machines were mobilized for these exercises. During the exercise, a B-52H nuclear strategic bomber and a B-2 stealth bomber flew into the sky above south Korea and dropped dummy munitions, and F-22 stealth fighters were deployed to the Osan air force base in south Korea.
- From 19 to 30 August 2013, the US conducted the Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military exercise. Over 30,000 US troops participated in this exercise,

and, during the exercise, B-52 nuclear strategic bombers flew into the sky above south Korea several times.

- On 5 February 2014, a B-52 nuclear strategic bomber flew into the sky above the west sea of the Korean peninsula and carried out drills for air strike.
- From 24 February to 18 April 2014, the US conducted the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises. The purpose of these exercises was to take control of the DPRK nuclear facilities and to occupy Pyongyang. The US applied the "Protocol for US-ROK combined forces to respond to localized provocations by North Korea" and the "Tailored Deterrent Strategy" to these exercises.
- On 6 August 2014, three B-2 nuclear strategic bombers moved from the US mainland to Andersen air force base in Guam.
- From 18 to 29 August 2014, the US conducted the Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military exercise. Over 30,000 US troops participated in this exercise, and they carried out a drill for a surprise pre-emptive strike against the DPRK in accordance with the "Tailored Deterrent Strategy".
- From 2 March to 24 April 2015, the US conducted the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises aimed at "removing the DPRK headquarters" and "occupying Pyongyang".
- On 10 January 2016, a B-52 nuclear strategic bomber took off from the air force base in Guam and flew into the sky above the Military Demarcation Line.
- From 7 March to 30 April 2016, the US conducted the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle 2016 joint military exercises and disclosed its plan for a "decapitation operation" and "high-density strike".
- On 26 April 2016, Obama, in an interview, said "We don't want them getting close [...] We could, obviously, destroy North Korea with our arsenals".
- On 17 June 2016, a B-52 bomber fleet exercised the dropping of nuclear bombs in the sky above south Korea.
- On 8 July 2016, the US announced, together with the south Korean puppets, their agreement to deploy THAAD in south Korea.
- On 6 August 2016, for the first time in 10 years, the US stationed several B-1B nuclear bombers in Guam, and three additional B-2 nuclear strategic bombers on 9 August.
- Around 23 August 2016, B-1B, B-52 and B-2 nuclear strategic bombers took off at the same time from Guam and flew to the Korean peninsula.
- On 13 September 2016, two B-1B US nuclear strategic bombers flew into the sky above south Korea, and again on 21 September, and this time one of them landed at the Osan air force base in south Korea.

As one can see from the above-mentioned facts, the reckless and dangerous provocations of the US to seek military invasion and the collapse of the DPRK were highly intensified and reached an extreme phase.

3. Inhumane sanctions aimed at economic suffocation

The manoeuvres of the US to impose sanctions on the DPRK are age-old, and their viciousness is also widely known to the world. However, what the US did in the past five years was indeed unprecedented in its pace and intensity.

The US regarded economic sanctions as the main tool for implementing its hostile policy against the DPRK and employed every heinous and vicious means to suffocate the DPRK.

The US made an issue of the legitimate right of the DPRK to the peaceful development of outer space and its build-up of self-defensive nuclear deterrence and made frantic attempts to fabricate heinous "sanctions resolutions" by usurping the Security Council.

All the "sanctions resolutions" fabricated at the Security Council by the US and its followers against the DPRK pursue the heinous goal to deprive the DPRK of its right to existence, subsistence and development by blocking the regular economic activities of the DPRK through all despicable means and methods.

Through the so-called United Nations "sanctions resolutions", the US seeks to prevent the DPRK from its routine financial transactions with other countries; put all the channels linked to the DPRK under tight control; force the inspection of any vessel sailing to and from the DPRK and prohibit entry of such vessels into ports of other countries; and have other countries deny permission to any aircraft of the DPRK to take off from, land in and overfly their territory.

The US went so far as to devise a provision for the "ban on export and import of luxury goods" and prevented the import of sport apparatus, which has nothing to do with the development of arms, and even included daily necessities and children's toys in the list of "banned goods".

Pursuant to the anti-DPRK "sanctions resolutions" it has forged, the US is running amok to impose unilateral sanctions while forcing other countries to get on board.

The following are the facts and figures about the abhorrent anti-DPRK sanctions manoeuvres made by the US over the past five years:

- On 18 June 2012, Obama declared the extension of State emergency and economic sanctions targeting the DPRK pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.
- On 22 January 2013, the US made an issue of the peaceful satellite launch of the DPRK and instigated the Security Council to adopt the "sanctions resolution 2087 (2013)". On 24 January, the US State Department and the Treasury Department announced unilateral sanctions on the basis of the "resolution".
- On 7 March 2013, the US pushed the Security Council to adopt the "sanctions resolution 2094 (2013)", while making an issue of the third nuclear test of the DPRK, which was a righteous measure for self-defence. The Treasury Department declared unilateral sanctions, pursuant to the "resolution".

- In September 2013 and November 2014, the US Treasury Department issued a warning to all US financial institutions urging them to maintain the financial sanctions against the DPRK at the highest level.
- From 23 to 26 April 2014, during his visit to Japan and south Korea, Obama talked about tougher "sanctions" and "pressure" against the DPRK.
- On 2 January 2015, Obama issued an executive order to impose sanctions on the DPRK with regard to the alleged hacking into Sony Pictures Entertainment and, pursuant to the order, the Treasury Department enforced the sanctions.
- In July, September, November and December 2015, the US State Department and the Treasury Department designated individuals and entities of the DPRK to be subject to the additional sanctions.
- On 18 February 2016, Obama signed the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016, a law on comprehensive sanctions and pressure targeting the DPRK.
- On 2 March 2016, the US instigated the Security Council to adopt the "sanctions resolution 2270 (2016)" by taking issue with the H-bomb test and peaceful satellite launch of the DPRK. The US State Department and the Treasury Department enforced sanctions pursuant to the "resolution" as well as unilateral sanctions.
- On 16 March 2016, Obama issued an executive order to impose sanctions on the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the DPRK. The Treasury Department designated the individuals, entities and vessels of the DPRK to be subject to the unilateral sanctions.
- On 1 June 2016, the US Treasury Department designated the DPRK as a "jurisdiction of primary money-laundering concern".
- On 6 July 2016, the US State Department bitterly condemned the DPRK in its report issued pursuant to the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016, and the US Treasury Department announced unilateral sanctions as a follow-up.
- On 4 November 2016, the US Treasury Department issued a final rule under section 311 of the Patriot Act to further restrict the access of the DPRK to the US financial system.

The ongoing economic sanctions imposed by the US are indeed the toughest of all time, and they are vicious hostile acts seeking to suffocate the overall economy of the DPRK, undermine the people's livelihood and ultimately isolate and stifle the DPRK.

As shown by the facts above, during the past five years, the US has designated the DPRK as the primary target for attack and regime change in the implementation of their aggressive Asia-Pacific domination strategy and has steadily and systematically intensified political, military and economic pressure on it.

The desperate hostile policy of the US towards the DPRK gave rise to the self-defensive measures from the latter.

In response to the US hostile acts of having wantonly violated the legitimate right of the DPRK to peaceful satellite launch and having fabricated another "sanctions resolution" by instigating the Security Council, the DPRK conducted the third nuclear test, on 12 February 2013, as part of practical countermeasures to safeguard the country's security and sovereignty.

The H-bomb test conducted for the first time by the DPRK in January 2016 was also a self-defensive measure to firmly protect the country's sovereignty and the nation's right to existence and guarantee peace on the Korean peninsula and the regional security from the frantic attempts of the US to put in place the harshest ever political isolation, economic blockade and military pressure and even impose nuclear holocaust on the DPRK.

Deeply unnerved by the strengthened nuclear forces of the DPRK, the US sought reckless military provocations, even touting about the "decapitation operation" and "high-density strike". To cope with these nefarious provocations of the US, the DPRK demonstrated the mighty nuclear strike capabilities of juche in Korea through the disclosure of a miniaturized nuclear warhead and successful test fire of submarine-launched ballistic missiles and surface-to-surface medium- and long-range strategic rocket Hwasong-10.

On 9 September 2016, the DPRK made a successful nuclear warhead detonation as part of its substantive countermeasures against the threats and sanctions by the US and other hostile forces who severely criticized the exercise by the DPRK of the right to self-defence and doggedly denied its strategic position.

All the facts above clearly substantiate the truth that the root cause of escalated tension on the Korean peninsula lies with the US hostile policy and nuclear threats against the DPRK, not the latter's nuclear and missile tests.

The DPRK has chosen the road of possessing nuclear weapons as a self-defensive measure to safeguard its State and system from the constant nuclear threat of the US. We are strengthening our nuclear forces both in quality and quantity, holding fast to the line of simultaneously developing the national economy and nuclear forces as our strategic line.

The US should face up to the new strategic position of the DPRK and take actual measures to show that they are willing to scrap its anachronistic hostile policy and nuclear threat against the DPRK.

This, and only this, will be the first base of resolving all the issues.